

**Indiana Heritage and Culture Council
Open Forum
Friday, October 4, 2002, 1-2 p.m.
Indianapolis World War Memorial Auditorium**

Committee on Collaboration Members: Dr. Scott Massey*, Chair, Indiana Humanities Council; Pamela J. Bennett*, Indiana Historical Bureau; Dorothy Ilgen, Indiana Arts Commission; Jane Rulon*, Indiana Film Commission of the Department of Commerce; Reid Williamson, Historic Landmarks Foundation; Ginny Andis*, Indiana State Library; James Glass* (advisor), Ball State University; Thomas Leahey *(advisor), Indiana University, Michael Coatney (advisor).

*** Attending**

Public Attendees: Connie Rendfeld, Indiana Historical Society; Martha Roblee, Indiana State Library; Chuck Schisla, Collaboration 2000; Steve Kennedy, DNR-DHPA; Paul Diebold, DNR-DHPA; Katy Hair, Historic Landmarks; Malia Savarino, DNR-DHPA; Rita Kohn**, NUVO Newsweekly; Jeff Myers**, Department of Natural Resources; David Heighway, Noblesville-Southeastern Public Library; Noraleen Young, citizen; Elizabeth Osborn**, citizen; Jon C. Smith**, DNR.

**** Council Member**

Dr. Scott Massey, Chairperson of the Indiana Heritage and Culture Council (IHCC) Committee on Collaboration, opened the public forum and thanked everyone for coming. He announced that the purpose of the forum was to take public comment on a draft of the "Interim Report on Statewide Cultural Collaboration". He noted that the final report would be submitted to Governor O'Bannon by December 31, 2002.

Introductions of Committee and Council members were made. Copies of the report were made available to the audience of 13 people. Massey indicated that there was a sign-in sheet for members of the audience.

Massey gave the audience background information on the Governor's Executive Order 01-12 that created the IHCC and required a comprehensive statewide collaborative plan to be presented to the Governor by December 31, 2002.

Massey described the status of the work of the Committee and spoke of the development of the draft "Interim Report on Statewide Cultural Collaboration". He stated that culture and collaboration needed to be defined because the Executive Order did not define the terms. In order to define the kinds of organizations to look at, the Committee used the IRS tax code and an inventory of organizations plus information from a research project that Indiana University had just completed. A written survey was sent to other states. Phone calls were directed to 5 states that were selected for more in-depth analysis. Massey stated that in the final report the Committee would recommend a facilitated

planning process, such as the process that took place in a few states, particularly Maine and Oregon.

Massey opened the forum for public comments. The first speaker, Paul Diebold, asked about Indiana Main Street and whether there would be any complications of enacting a plan because some agencies receive federal funding. Committee members answered that federal funding was not anticipated to be a problem.

Noraleen Young asked whether the inventory of organizations would be available online at some point in time. Massey answered yes.

Chuck Schisla mentioned that he was not aware of this initiative until the week of the forum. He asked what kind of input had there been other than state input. He noted that in reading the draft report, there was no mention of public input or knowledge of communication and interaction of cultural organizations. He stated that it read like a “top-down” report from a state agency. A Committee member answered that he represented a wider constituency because he is also on the board at Landmarks. Schisla said the information from the report had not been disseminated.

Massey answered that the Indiana Heritage and Culture Council is composed of 30 members who represent statewide public and private culture/heritage agencies and organizations, as a step toward inclusiveness. The Governor’s order is an unfunded initiative, and hence IHCC has only limited volunteer resources. Communications to date have used IHCC members’ listserves and a newly created website. Massey noted that the Committee feels that a strong communications plan is critical, along with broad participation in a planning process. Hence, the Committee’s overall recommendation is funding a broad-based, statewide cultural planning process.

Jon Smith, a Council member, also replied to Schisla’s remarks. He sent a survey to 44 organizations in the state. Thirty responded. He will be targeting the rest of them to get 100% to respond. The survey will also be available online.

Pam Bennett said that the Technology Committee of the IHCC planned to have a report soon. There is a web site for the Council that has minutes of meetings, reports, and drafts. Most of the organizations will be linking to that site from their home pages. Schisla asked if technology was limited to the web site. Was there a broader communication component? As the project develops, Schisla asked if newspapers would be used or other mass media. Massey replied that a plan for communication and dissemination of the report to interested parties is needed. The Indiana Humanities Council is developing an encyclopedia to enhance collaboration.

Schisla asked if there would be things that others could do to move the process along. Massey replied that the Committee had discovered how complex the topic is—getting to know states’ assets and where collaboration is appropriate. A list of concerns about this process (not yet available) would be attached to the final report. One concern would be that this process not be used simply to save state funds. More conversation would be

needed. Any audience member would be encouraged to talk to their groups and encourage them to send their thoughts to the Committee on Collaboration of the IHCC. One Committee member added that the facilitated process would involve hiring a consultant to start a dialog in the state.

Jon Smith said that none of us knows where this process will go. He stated that the Council knows it will have to meet next year because the task is huge.

Massey provided background information that other states are realizing critical roles in community building and promotion of their states' culture, agencies, and businesses. He hoped that the rest of the country would know about our initiative.

Dave Heighway stated that there was talk in his local community about collaboration but they had been floundering. He asked if the IHCC would come up with a blueprint for counties to undertake this process. Pam Bennett answered that this opportunity is a first in Indiana. There is a chance to come up with a blueprint at the state level. The IHCC hopes to be able to get the resources to continue the process. It is known that the process cannot work unless there is grass-roots support. There is great potential for Indiana with this initiative. This report is a first step. New people have to be brought into the process. She indicated the commitment is there. For collaboration to work when organizations compete for funds, it must advance everyone's interests in carrying out their missions.

Schisla asked if there had been enough exposure of this project to see if there would be interest from funding sources. Massey answered that there had not been at this point in time.

Massey concluded the forum by saying that representatives from several other states felt that Indiana had a good basis to get started with collaboration.